



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 8, 1988

Mr. Roy Decker
Aurora Mining Company
Box 315
Nicholson, Pennsylvania 18446

Dear Mr. Decker,

I am responding to your letter, received September 7, 1988, which requested information on placer mining and land ownership/claim status in Utah.

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) regulates the permitting of mining operations within the state. Placer mining is permitted by DOGM. It is also regulated by the appropriate federal land managing agency, Bureau of Land Management and/or U.S. Forest Services, if the placer claim is located on federal land.

In Utah, land ownership is principally of 3 types: State land, Federal land, and private or "patented" land. The surface and mineral ownership may be of one type or any combination of these 3 categories.

State lands are designated as "school sections". Typically four sections in each township and range (sections 2, 16, 32 & 36) are designated state sections. Mineral rights on state sections are granted by mineral lease from the Utah Division of State Lands & Forestry.

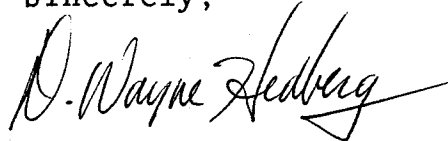
Mining claims and mineral leases on federal lands are administered by the BLM and USFS. The BLM is responsible for issuance of mineral leases on all federally held lands. The BLM and USFS may also control the surface rights to the federal lands in question. An operator who plans to conduct mineral exploration or mining operations on federally managed lands, must file a Notice of Intention (under 5 acres disturbance) or Plan of Operations (over 5 acres disturbance) with the appropriate federal agency prior to conducting said operations. A similar filing is also required by DOGM on all lands within the state of Utah, regardless of surface or mineral ownership.

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The state BLM office in Salt Lake City maintains records on the status of federal mining claims and land ownership. The Utah Division of State Lands & Forestry have state plat maps which identify state mineral lease ownership and general land ownership. State plat maps may also be inspected in the county recorders office at each county seat in Utah. These maps should indicate current land ownership. Copies of federal mining claim location notices and affidavits of annual assessment work are also filed with the pertinent county recorders office and the BLM.

The Utah Geological and Mineral Survey (UGMS) may be able to provide you with more specific information regarding location of specific types of mineral deposits in Utah. They have many publications and maps which are available to the public for a nominal fee. The United States Geological Survey (USGS), BLM and USFS can also provide you with publications and maps which pertain to specific areas of Utah that you may have an interest in. Addresses and phone numbers for the principle state office of these agencies are listed below. I have enclosed some general information regarding the staking of mining claims and annual assessment work requirements. Please feel free to call or write us if we can provide additional information regarding state permitting requirements for mining in Utah.

Sincerely,



D. Wayne Hedberg
Reclamation Hydrologist

jb
Enclosures
cc: L. Braxton
S. Johnson
H. Shepherd

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Intermountain Regional Office
United States Forest Service
324 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401
(801) 625-5158

U.S. Department of Interior
Geological Survey
Public Inquiries Office-Maps
125 South State
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
(801) 524-5652

Division of State Lands
and Forestry
Mr. Jerry Mansfield
Mineral Resource Specialist
3 Triad Center, Suite 400
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108-1204
(801) 538-5479

Utah State Office
Bureau of Land Management
324 South State Street
Suite 301
Coordinated Financial Services Bldg.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2303
(801) 524-5330

Utah Division of Geological
and Mineral Survey
Mr. Bryce Tripp
606 Blackhawk Way
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108
(801) 581-6831

U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Mines
Salt Lake City Research Center
729 Arapleen Drive
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108
(801) 524-6112 (Technical Info)

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Dear Sirs,

Aug. 24, 1988

I am writing you for information on placer mining in your state. I would like a list of publications available from the Bureau of Mines. I would also like to know where to contact to determine land ownership and claim status. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Very Truly Yours,

Roy Decker

Aurora Mining Co.

Please send reply to;

Roy Decker

Box 315

Nicholson, Pa. 18446

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DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING